

Cultural Retention and Revitalisation within Kaupapa Māori Research: The Role of Contemporary Creative Expression

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For the past 25 years, Kaupapa Māori Theory has provided a place within the academy for Māori to create knowledge which is meaningful for Māori and embraces Māori ways of knowing and being. As a research space, it is premised upon Māori values, epistemology and the celebration of traditional Māori knowledge. This presentation embraces the application of traditional Māori knowledge within Kaupapa Māori and it draws on the creative philosophies of Te Ahukaramū Charles Royal to discuss how cultural creativity and expression exists within a wider framework of cultural retention and revitalisation. As Royal (2005, p. 3) wisely notes when discussing traditional Māori knowledge, “It is good for us to be inspired by the wisdom of our ancestors but at the same time it is also important to recognise that we live in a world that is vastly different to that experienced by our ancestors.” As such, Royal encourages Māori researchers to seek out and adopt contemporary knowledge expressions to ensure that the mātauraka we create as researchers also speaks to the times we live in. This presentation will discuss how contemporary mātauraka is applied in creative writing within an indigenous autoethnography methodology. As such, it will be of interest to Māori researchers who are seeking to express their research in alternative creative forms, whilst still meeting the academic needs of the academy and Pākehā researchers who want to understand the application of Kaupapa Māori within a professional practice setting.